

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /076 W

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R 041033Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000X

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 30441

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: VISITS TO US, EUROPE, AND AUSTRALIA OF THAI REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPLAIN MILITARY TAKEOVER TO THAI STUDENTS

SUMMARY: U.S. EMBASSY AND SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN BANGKOK HAVE LEARNED IN LAST FEW DAYS OF EVIDENT RTG INTENTION TO SEND CABINET MISSIONS TO THE U.S., EUROPE, AND AUSTRALIA TO EXPLAIN BACKGROUND OF RECENT MILITARY TAKEOVER. DECISION TO SEND MISSION TO U.S. HAS BEEN POSTPONED BY THAI CABINET, BUT BRITISH EMBASSY HAS ISSUED VISA TO DUSIT SIRIWAN, MINISTER IN OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER, AND AUSTRALIANS UNDERSTAND THAT MISSION TO AUSTRALIA IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS EMBASSY AND SEVERAL OTHER MISSIONS IN BANGKOK HAVE LEARNED IN LAST FEW DAYS OF RTG INTENTION TO SEND CABINET MISSIONS TO U.S., EUROPE, AND AUSTRALIA TO EXPLAIN BACKGROUND OF RECENT MILITARY TAKEOVER. THAI STUDENT COMMUNITIES IN U.S., U.K., FRANCE, AND AUSTRALIA ARE TO BE PARTICULAR TARGETS

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FOR THIS EFFORT.

2. AMBASSADOR HAD CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAMAK SUNTHORAWET ON NOV 2, DURING WHICH SAMAK SAID HE PLANNED TO LEAVE NOV 3 FOR LOS ANGELES TO "EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED" TO THE THAI COMMUNITY THERE. SAMAK FELT THE THAI COMMUNITY HAD MISUNDERSTOOD THE RECENT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT, AND THERE WAS EVEN TALK OF ESTABLISHING A "GOVERNMENT IN EXILE". EMBASSY HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT SAMAK DECIDED AGAINST LEAVING AT THIS TIME. CONSIDERATION WAS BRIEFLY GIVEN TO HAVING DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR KHANUNG LUCHAI VISIT THE U.S. IN PLACE OF SAMAK. HOWEVER, ON NOV 4 KHANUNG LUCHAI'S OFFICE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE THAI CABINET HAD DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE VISIT TO THE U.S. FOR THE PRESENT. WE ASKED TO BE INFORMED WHENEVER SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE DECIDED ON, SO THAT APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE U.S. COULD BE FACILITATED.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY TELLS US IT ISSUED VISITOR'S VISAS NOV 3 TO DUSIT SIRIWAN, MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET (STAFF MEMBER OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE), AND VILAS MANIWAT (PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER WITH SIAM CEMENT CO. WHO ONCE WORKED FOR BBC IN LONDON). MFA NOTE ON DUSIT PARTY SIMPLY STATED THAT FORTHCOMING VISIT TO U.K. IS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, AND BRITISH EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN REQUESTED TO ARRANGE ANY APPOINTMENTS. BRITISH EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DUSIT GROUP WILL ALSO VISIT FRANCE. DUSIT GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BANGKOK FOR LONDON ON NOV 10.

4. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TELLS US THEY HAVE HEARD OF VISITS BY SEVERAL THAI GOVERNMENT GROUPS TO EXPLAIN EVENTS TO THAI STUDENT COMMUNITIES ABROAD, INCLUDING GROUP TO GO TO AUSTRALIA. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIANS HAVE NOT YET HEARD WHO WILL HEAD GROUP TRAVELLING THERE OR WHEN IT WILL LEAVE.

WHITEHOUSE

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